

Table 3: Preliminary Determination – Individual Eligible Wild and Scenic River(s)/Segments, Monticello Field Office

<u>COLORADO RIVER*</u>			
State land near River Mile 44 to Canyonlands National Park near River Mile 31			
Length In Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Values - ORVs	Level of Significance	Tentative Classification
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish • Recreation • Wildlife • Cultural • Ecological 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National • National • National • National • National 	Wild

* The North/west side of this section of the Colorado River is managed by the BLM Moab Field Office, the South/east side of the same section of river is managed by the BLM Monticello Office. The boundary of the two resource areas is the centerline of the Colorado River.

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

- **Fish** – The Colorado River has a unique resident fish population for more than two-thirds of the native fish are endemic. This river contains designated critical habitat for the endangered Bonytail chub, Humpback chub, Colorado squawfish and the Razorback sucker. These endangered species are also listed as “protected” in Utah under state laws. The first three species are found nowhere else in the world besides the Colorado River system. The Colorado River is also home to the Bluehead sucker and Flannelmouth sucker, which are listed as Species of Special Concern (any wildlife species or subspecies that has experienced a substantial decrease in population, distribution and/or habitat availability) for the state of Utah.
- **Recreation** – Downstream from the town of Moab, the Colorado River provides a popular year round float opportunity for boaters, motorized and non-motorized. Approximately 12,000 visitors per year boat on this section of the river. Locals and visitors from all over the world use this section to fish, raft, powerboat, canoe, hike, camp, and enjoy the spectacular scenery. Outfitters market their trips both nationally

offering points to get onto or off the river. Jet boats shuttle canoe trips from the confluence of the Green River and Colorado in Canyonlands National Park back to Moab using this stretch. There is a petrified forest on the banks, a fossil point of interest with brachiopods, horned corral, and two forms of primitive sharkline fish teeth

- **Wildlife** – The Colorado River provides or is potential habitat for the following threatened or endangered species: Bald eagle, Southwestern willow flycatcher, Mexican spotted owl, and the Yellow-billed cuckoo (candidate species). The river provides critical habitat for desert bighorn sheep, peregrine falcons and other raptors, migrating and nesting neo-tropical birds, and the Northern river otter, which is a Species of Special Concern for Utah.
- **Cultural** – The Colorado River has evidence of significant occupation and use by both prehistoric and historic peoples. Native Americans consider the Colorado River and its major flowing tributaries as sacred spaces. The variety and number of archeological and historical sites adjacent to the river embrace the occupation of these prehistoric and historic peoples. Sites include alcoves, rock shelters, lithic scatters, rock art, and open camp sites, as well as European homesteads.

Prehistoric sites have the potential to provide information concerning the use of the river corridors by Archaic, Fremont, and Pre-Puebloan Cultures, as well as the Numic speaking peoples. Early travelers and traders also utilized the Colorado River as fords; crossings developed with the advent of increased travel between the Southwest and the Pacific coast.

- **Ecological** – The Colorado River is adjacent to the Pacific Flyway and provides important habitat for many migrating neo-tropical, shorebird, and waterfowl species. The aquatic, wetland and riparian habitats provide respite and survival for the existence of many wildlife species. The river corridor contains vegetative islands that serve as important refuge and nesting habitats for many migrant waterfowl species, including the Canada goose and plovers.

The river corridor contains some the last remnant populations of river otters, as well as nesting and forage habitat for endangered Bald eagle, endangered Mexican spotted owl, endangered Southwestern willow flycatcher, endangered bats, and four species of endangered native fish endemic only to the Colorado River system, Bonytail chub, Humpback chub, Colorado squawfish, and Razorback sucker.